

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. William Crawford
Pamela Leffers
Mary Jane Scamahorn
Kimberly Armstrong
Mark Young
Susan Tucker
Mara Snyder
Anne Valentine
Melanie Brizzi
Becky Dennis
Sharon Molarjik
Ann Stefaniak
Tonette Murff
Bonnie Miller

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COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 19, 2006
Meeting Time: 2:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Rep. William Crawford; Mary Jane Scamahorn; Mark Young; Susan Tucker; Anne Valentine; Melanie Brizzi; Becky Dennis; Ann Stefaniak; Bonnie Miller.

Members Absent: Pam Leffers; Kimberly Armstrong; Mara Snyder; Sharon Molarjik; Tonette Murff.

Sen. Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked the members and staff to introduce themselves. She then briefly described the history of the Committee and the recommendations of the Committee from the 2006 Final Report of the Committee.

Sen. Lawson requested that Ms. Brizzi provide the update from the Division of Family Resources regarding issues raised for followup by the Division in the Committee's 2006 Final Report. Ms. Brizzi provided an outline of her testimony² and several handouts specific to the items contained in the outline. She discussed each item, beginning with the

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

² Attachment 1.

issue of improved Division communication with child care providers. Ms. Brizzi described quarterly meetings begun by the Division with child care providers at various locations throughout the state. She provided a copy of a newsletter³ which is available via email and through the updated Carefinder Internet site⁴. She explained that consultants who perform child care provider inspections request email updates at every visit.

Ms. Brizzi referred to a handout⁵ providing an update concerning the child care home administrative rules adoption process. She described current events related to the process, including meetings with child care providers, drafting, clarification and editing, to be completed before the end of September, 2006. She stated that she anticipates legal and public comment to be completed before mid-November, 2006, concluding with the formal administrative rules adoption process⁶.

Ms. Brizzi noted the following: (1) a provider response document⁷ for responses to complaints and evaluations of the provider, to be posted to the Division's Internet site; (2) a child care provider satisfaction survey tool⁸ which will be implemented in October, 2006, as a follow up to Division inspector visits to licensed and registered child care providers; (3) that she will discuss strategic planning for a statewide quality rating system for child care providers; (4) a parent information letter⁹ from the Division to parents of new Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) voucher recipients; (5) the transfer, in May, 2006, of \$18 million in Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) funds which allowed 3000 children to be moved from the CCDF waiting list to receive voucher payments; (6) new communications with businesses concerning child care based on an economic impact study; (7) activities related to assisting child care providers to improve the quality of the child care that they provide; and (8) charts concerning child care capacity¹⁰ in Indiana, information concerning CCDF use¹¹ in Indiana, and safe sleep training¹².

In response to questions from Sen. Lawson, Ms. Scamahorn, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Stefaniak, Ms. Brizzi stated that: (1) she will provide information concerning child care center capacity in rural areas, and clarification concerning the region numbers contained in the Monthly Management Report from August, 2006 at the next meeting; and (2) accurate information is not available concerning the number of children in child care not receiving CCDF vouchers.

³Attachment 2.

⁴Attachment 3.

⁵Attachment 4.

⁶Attachment 5.

⁷Attachment 6.

⁸Attachment 7.

⁹Attachment 8.

¹⁰Attachment 9.

¹¹Attachment 10.

¹²Attachment 11.

Ms. Brizzi briefly discussed each of the following: (1) voluntary certification review for child care ministries¹³; (2) Mentors as Partners program¹⁴; and (3) spending of CCDF quality funds on TEACH¹⁵, a nonformal CDA project¹⁶, an Indiana accreditation project¹⁷, an on-line mentoring project¹⁸, a child care workforce study¹⁹, an infant and toddler special initiative²⁰, a youth development credential²¹ and Indiana Association of Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) programs²².

Sen. Lawson began Committee discussion based on Ms. Brizzi's report:

Child care for low income parents In response to questions from the members, Ms. Brizzi predicted that \$12 million would be available from cost savings for transfer in 2007, and that additional funds will be available in future years. She stated that the CCDF eligibility criteria have not changed, there are currently approximately 3000 children on the CCDF waiting list, and the average time on the waiting list has decreased from 67 days to 30 days. In response to questions from Rep. Crawford and Sen. Lawson, Ms. Brizzi: (1) agreed to provide: (a) a document reflecting the geographic concentration of children on the waiting list and where CCDF funding is spent in Indiana; and (b) information concerning use of unspent CCDF funding and the CCDF payment ratesetting process for 2007; and (2) stated that provider noncompliance issues with child care licensing ratio requirements are addressed individually.

Ms. Brizzi introduced Tracy Wells, The Stein Group. Ms. Wells discussed nine meetings which will be held in various locations in Indiana with local businesses. The subject of discussion will be child care and the effect of child care on business.

Quality of child care Ms. Brizzi clarified that newly licensed child care providers and currently licensed providers are required to take the safe sleep training. She stated that the mentors in the Mentors as Partners program are specially trained child care specialists from IACCRR. Marsha Thompson, IACCRR, provided a description of the training. She stated that each of eleven IACCRRs in Indiana receive approximately \$27,000 for the program and that approximately \$75,000 is available to provide incentives to child care providers in the state through CCDF quality funds. Several child care providers affirmed

¹³Attachment 12.

¹⁴Attachment 13.

¹⁵Attachment 14.

¹⁶Attachment 15.

¹⁷Attachment 16.

¹⁸Attachment 17.

¹⁹Attachment 18.

²⁰Attachment 19.

²¹Attachment 20.

²²Attachment 21.

the value of the program in assisting them in improving child care at their facilities.

Parent information Ms. Brizzi confirmed that, in response to expressed concerns, certain provider addresses have been removed from the Carefinder Internet site and compliance issues and responses are promptly posted on the site. She noted the Carefinder update, including an accreditation list and a list of licensed and unlicensed child care providers, and the CCDF new parents letter, which is also provided in an information packet concerning choosing quality child care.

Additionally, Ms. Brizzi explained that inspection consultants are now using laptop computers that allow for more efficient exchange of information, and that the Division plans to contract with the National Association of Regulatory Administration to write policy manuals and provide training for more consistent enforcement of child care regulations. Sen. Lawson commented on the need for less detail in the administrative rules, and increased detail for enforcement purposes in policy/procedure documents.

Provider communication Sen. Lawson commented on the provider newsletter and email access.

Sen. Lawson explained that the next meeting of the Committee will be held at 2:00 p.m. on October 10, 2006, and that one additional meeting will be held before October 31, 2006, to adopt the final report of the Committee and any recommended legislation, including legislation to continue a committee concerning child care issues if determined necessary by the Committee. She requested that the members contact Ms. Naughton with any additional questions or issues for Committee discussion at the October 10 meeting.

Several members complimented Ms. Brizzi on her work.

Amelia Galloway, director of a child care center located in Bloomington, Indiana, discussed the effect on child care centers of recent openings of full day preschools in ten public schools in Bloomington. She emphasized her concern regarding the quality of care at the preschools as opposed to child care centers for children who are three to five years of age due to the educational model that is followed by preschools and variances in regulation. She stated that this situation provides for unfair competition.

In response to questions from Rep. Budak, Ms. Scamahorn, Sen. Sipes, and Rep. Crawford, Ms. Galloway stated that: (1) child care centers receive higher payment for care of three to five year olds than preschools receive; (2) child care centers will have insufficient funds if they do not care for three to five year olds in addition to infants and toddlers; (3) preschools are exempt from child care regulation because they are located in school buildings; (4) children eligible for Title I funds are not necessarily attending the preschools; and (5) she is not certain how prevalent this is throughout the state.

Dianna Wallace, Indiana Association for the Education of Young People, stated that the Center for Child Development at IU Bloomington has surveyed all schools within the past year and may be able to provide information concerning prevalence of public schools opening preschools in Indiana.

With no further business to discuss, Sen. Lawson adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m.